

SCOPE

A large number of incidents encountered at our transfer stations arise from poor packaging and preparation of the incoming waste loads. This guide is designed to set out the best way to prepare a waste consignment for transport to ensure compliance with ADR, and to avoid an environmental incident on the road, or an accident at our transfer stations.

Hazardous waste should be treated with the same caution and respect as products, if not more, as hazards may not always be apparent.

DANGEROUS GOODS SAFETY ADVISER (DGSA)

Any operations involving dangerous goods must be handled in the manner set out in ADR, and should be under the guidance of an appointed DGSA. All companies whose activities involve dangerous goods need to have an appointed DGSA, whether in-house or sub-contracted. Ask your account manager if you need DGSA assistance.

PALLETS

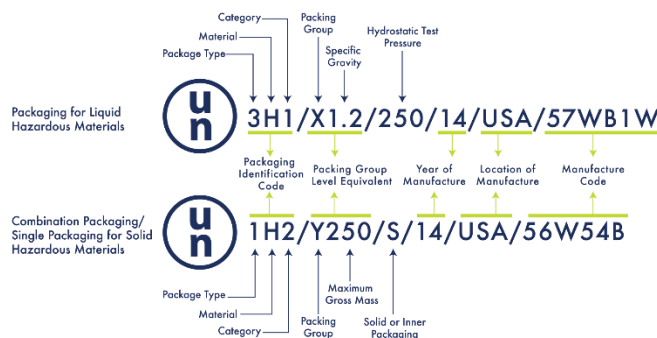
The foundation of a safe, secure load is the pallet. Pallets need to be:

- Wood. Plastic pallets are NOT permitted for drums and packages. Plastic pallets will incur an NCR and repack charges.
- In good condition:
 - No missing blocks or slats.
 - Not rotten or split.
 - No protruding nails or screws.
- Suitable for the weight of the packages. If drums are overweight, reduce the number of drums on the pallet.



CONTAINERS

- Must be UN approved if containing dangerous goods.
 - Look for the UN marks.
 - If the clean product was supplied in UN containers, the waste product must also go in UN containers.



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- Must be compatible with the contents:
 - Solid or liquid. Different containers are designed for different states, e.g. clip tops are not generally suitable for liquids.
 - Must not react with the contents. E.g metal drums are unsuitable for acids.
- Must be in good condition (Body, lids, bungs, clips, pallets, stacking points), with no leaks.



CONTAINER DATE

- Plastic containers have a 5 year shelf life.
- IBC's have a 2.5 year test date.
- Containers must be in date to be compliant for transport.
- If IBC's or plastic drums or jerry cans are out of date, drivers will refuse to load them. Contact us to discuss repacking before transit.

CONTAINER FILLING

Overfilled or overweight containers can cause issues with chemical exposure and handling.

- For heavy wastes, fill to the weight capacity of the container (this will be specified within the UN markings) or to the maximum weight specified in your quote caveats. Overweight items are likely to incur surcharges and/or repacking costs.
- For liquid wastes, allow ullage space for expansion, usually 85-95% of capacity (see ADR 4.1.1.4). Contents expand as they warm up, causing drums to become pressurised.

Pressurised containers put our chemists at risk from being hit by lids and bungs or being showered with chemical substances as they are ejected with considerable force when opening to check and sample contents.

CONTAINERS SEALS

- Must have all lids, caps, clips and rubber seals in place, and securely fastened.
 - This is especially important for those that carry 'Fatal' or 'Toxic' hazard phrases.
 - Rags or wedges banged into drum openings are not permitted.
- No sealing putty, tape or shrink wrap covering splits or holes.
- No free liquids in open containers.

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WASTE IDENTIFICATION & LABELLING

- Each package needs to be identified with the contents and hazards, while it is being filled on your site, during storage and during transport.
- Unless you have a GRG Chemist visit to label and prep your load, you need to provide a member of staff who knows the waste to assist the driver at collection. They should be familiar with the load list and be able to match up the descriptions with the containers presented to ensure the correct labels are applied.

PALLET PREP

Pallets need to be packed so they are:

- Similar materials together.
- Even weight distribution. Uneven pallets are liable to tip off the forks.
- Not overhanging excessively. Particularly when dealing with bagged materials, as these can be easily ripped if overhanging.

Avoid:

- Incompatible materials on the same pallet e.g.
 - No oxidisers and flammables together.
 - No acids and caustics together.
- Empty and full drums on the same pallet.
- Stacking too high. The bottom containers must not be damaged by stacking.
- Drum clips making contact with the neighbouring pallets. This can cause clips to come undone and lids to be loose.

BANDING AND WRAPPING

Banding and wrapping must be sufficient to stop the containers moving during loading and transit.

- Shrink wrap must:
 - Have half a width overlap with the previous layer.
 - Hold all items on the pallet tightly together.

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- Hold all items onto the pallet.
 - Not obscure package labels.
 - Have no trailing ends.
- Banding must go underneath the pallets as well as around drums.



SPECIFIC PACKING INSTRUCTIONS

Specific wastes need special care. Talk to us about these wastes so that we can offer instruction and training into the best way to package them.

- **Lab smalls**
 - Require segregating, packing and an inventory of each container.
 - Some substances have very specific packaging limits.
 - Talk to us about lab chem packing services.
- **Batteries & WEEE**
 - Need segregating and specific packaging to reduce the risk of fires, and an inventory of each container.
 - Talk to us about packing services.
- **Fire extinguishers**
 - Need pins to be cable tied into place to avoid accidental discharge during handling and transport.

WASTE STORAGE

- Store wastes in a secure area.
- Segregate hazards within the storage area.
- Prevent rainwater from filling containers.

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